

Sixteen Illustrative & Information Displays Make Their Debut at Site of Future Catskill Interpretive Center; Will Help Area Residents Learn More About the Region and Support Tourism

Mount Tremper, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis, and other local officials today formally unveiled and dedicated the new Catskill Interpretive Kiosk site. The kiosk is filled with 16 illustrative and informative display panels on Catskill natural history, culture, and recreational activities.

"The new Catskill Interpretive Kiosk site will provide area residents with a wide array of information about this naturally beautiful part of our state and country while also serving as a guide for visitors who may be discovering our region of the world for the very first time," Hinchey said. "I've lived in the Catskill region ever since I was a little boy and have always had a fond appreciation for these mountains and the natural settings in which we live. This kiosk and the forthcoming Catskill Interpretive Center will serve both an educational purpose while also supporting tourism in the region."

Located at a scenic roadside area, the kiosk offers an abundance of information for visitors to the Catskills as well as local residents. It is a microcosm of the displays planned for the Catskill Interpretive Center and a first-step toward the realization of that long-anticipated education center. Over the years, both Hinchey and the NYS DEC have shown steadfast commitment to the creation of the Catskill Interpretive Center.

Sixteen display panels were designed, printed and mounted by NYS DEC with assistance from the partnering organizations and input from the public. The construction of the kiosk was a community endeavor, funded by private donations and public funds and supported by volunteers.

The Catskill Regional Interpretive Center is a project Hinchey initiated as part of an effort to provide an educational and tourism resource center for the Catskill State Park similar to the Adirondack Park Interpretive Centers. The Catskill Park covers over 700,000 acres and is the largest state or national park without a visitors center. Hinchey secured \$380,000 in federal funds that will be used for the design of the new center.